KUMARI UMA BHARATI: There is likely to be shortfall in the cotton production. That is what is mentioned in the annual report of your Ministry.

SHRI MULLAPPALY RAMACHANDRAN: There is very slight fall in the production. But it will not affect the market; it will no affect the farmers also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to tell whether it is a fact that the demand for cotton-clothes has again increased inside and outside India during the last five years and, as a result thereof, area under cotton cultivation which had decreased following a slump in demand for cotton and cotton-clothes has again gone up? May I know the measures being taken by the Government to encourage cotton cultivation and increase area under cotton cultivation?

[*English*]

SHRI MULLAPPALY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, under the Intensive Cotton Cultivation Programme, there are so many incentives being given by the Ministry. Of course, the farmers are being benefited by this programme.

Under the Intensive Cotton Development Scheme (ICDS), the Government provides plant protection equipment and chemicals at subsidised rate to the farmers.

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S.SOUNDARAM: The extra long staple cotton which is named Suvin cottion is grown only in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. May I know from the Minister whether the C.C.I. Will come forward to buy this cotton to export to foreign countries, which is in great demand.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many bales of this variety the Government of India exported last year.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: We are not concerned with the Cotton Corporation of India. It is under the Ministry of Textiles. It is the look out of that Ministry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QESTIONS

[*English*]

Local Call Facility in Delhi

**801. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister* of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to *state:*

(a). whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., Delhi has provided free local call facility at some places in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the facility is not misused:

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI. RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Free local call telephone facility has been provided in emergency/ casualty wards of main hospitals, arrival/departure lounges of Indira Gandhi International Airport and Telecom Centre at Shastri Bhawan.

(c). These telephones are installed at a carefully chosen place to ensure that the facility extended is not misused.

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges.

*802. SHRI. DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: